

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 23, 2019

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On September 9, 2019, the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Intelligence, and Oversight and Reform wrote to you requesting six categories of documents relating to reports that President Trump and his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, pressed the Ukrainian government to interfere with the upcoming U.S. Presidential election by pursuing investigations that could benefit President Trump politically. We asked the Department to produce these documents by September 16, 2019.<sup>1</sup>

To date, the State Department has failed to comply in any way with the Committees' request and has not even sent a formal reply. Instead, on September 20—four days after the deadline for producing the documents—State Department staff sent an email claiming that they were still reviewing our requests, without giving any indication of when—or whether—the Department will produce the documents.

Seeking to enlist a foreign actor to interfere with an American election undermines our sovereignty, democracy, and the Constitution, which the President is sworn to preserve, protect, and defend. Yet the President and his personal attorney now appear to be openly engaging in precisely this type of abuse of power involving the Ukrainian government ahead of the 2020 election.

On May 7, 2019, FBI Director Christopher Wray testified before the Senate that “any public official or member of any campaign” should immediately report to the FBI any conversations with foreign actors about “influencing or interfering with our election.”<sup>2</sup> His stark warning followed detailed reports from both the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Office of Special Counsel Robert Mueller concluding that Russia interfered directly in the 2016 election on behalf of President Trump.

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Chairman Eliot L. Engel, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Chairman Adam Schiff, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and Chairman Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Reform, to Secretary Mike Pompeo, Department of State (Sept. 9, 2019) (online at [https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/\\_cache/files/a/d/ad1e0561-2252-4f7c-97ad-f649db558c83/1F587BDDA9087BEDDEE8D45A8F92C370.test.ele-schiff-cummings-letter-to-sec-pompeo-on-ukraine-002-.pdf](https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/_cache/files/a/d/ad1e0561-2252-4f7c-97ad-f649db558c83/1F587BDDA9087BEDDEE8D45A8F92C370.test.ele-schiff-cummings-letter-to-sec-pompeo-on-ukraine-002-.pdf)).

<sup>2</sup> *‘The FBI Director is Wrong’: Trump’s Willingness to Accept Foreign Help Keeps Him at Odds with Wray*, Washington Post (June 13, 2019) (online at [www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/daily-202/2019/06/13/daily-202-the-fbi-director-is-wrong-trump-s-willingness-to-accept-foreign-help-keeps-him-at-odds-with-wray/5d012c87a7a0a4030c3fda7b/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/daily-202/2019/06/13/daily-202-the-fbi-director-is-wrong-trump-s-willingness-to-accept-foreign-help-keeps-him-at-odds-with-wray/5d012c87a7a0a4030c3fda7b/)).

On June 12, 2019, President Trump rejected this warning, declaring from his desk in the Oval Office: “The FBI Director is wrong.” Instead, he stated that he would certainly consider accepting information on a political opponent from a foreign power in the future without alerting the FBI.<sup>3</sup>

The next day, the Chair of the Federal Election Commission issued the following statement:

Let me make something 100% clear to the American public and anyone running for public office: It is illegal for any person to solicit, accept, or receive anything of value from a foreign national in connection with a U.S. election. This is not a novel concept. Election intervention from foreign governments has been considered unacceptable since the beginnings of our nation.<sup>4</sup>

Over the past few days, the President’s public statements have shifted dramatically about whether he personally urged Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to investigate 2020 presidential candidate Joe Biden’s son.<sup>5</sup> On Sunday, the President admitted that he repeatedly discussed the widely debunked conspiracy theory linking Vice President Biden to corruption in Ukraine during a July 25 telephone call with President Zelensky.<sup>6</sup> In addition, Mr. Giuliani admitted during an interview on national television last week that “of course” he had asked Ukraine to investigate President Trump’s political opponent.<sup>7</sup>

If press reports are accurate, such corrupt use of presidential power for the President’s personal political interest—and not for the national interest—is a betrayal of the President’s oath of office and cannot go unchecked.

The State Department has acknowledged, in a statement on August 22, that at least one member of your senior staff played a direct role in arranging meetings between Mr. Giuliani, who has no role in government, and representatives of President Zelensky just days after the President’s July 25 call with his Ukrainian counterpart.<sup>8</sup> In addition, press reports have indicated

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<sup>3</sup> *‘I Think I’d Take It’: In Exclusive Interview, Trump Says He Would Listen if Foreigners Offered Dirt on Opponents*, ABC News (June 13, 2019) (online at <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/id-exclusive-interview-trump-listen-foreigners-offered-dirt/story?id=63669304>).

<sup>4</sup> Federal Election Commission, *Statement Regarding Illegal Contributions from Foreign Governments* (June 13, 2019) (online at [www.fec.gov/resources/cms-content/documents/Chair\\_Weintraub\\_on\\_Illegal\\_Foreign\\_Contributions.pdf](http://www.fec.gov/resources/cms-content/documents/Chair_Weintraub_on_Illegal_Foreign_Contributions.pdf)).

<sup>5</sup> *Trump Repeatedly Pressed Ukraine President to Investigate Biden’s Son*, Wall Street Journal (Sept. 20, 2019) (online at [www.wsj.com/articles/trump-defends-conversation-with-ukraine-leader-11568993176](http://www.wsj.com/articles/trump-defends-conversation-with-ukraine-leader-11568993176)).

<sup>6</sup> *Trump Admits to Discussing Biden in Scrutinized Talk with Ukrainian Leader*, NBC News (Sept. 22, 2019) (online at [www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trump-claims-no-quid-pro-quo-when-he-discussed-biden-n1057376](http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trump-claims-no-quid-pro-quo-when-he-discussed-biden-n1057376)).

<sup>7</sup> *Cuomo Prime Time*, CNN (Sept. 19, 2019) (online at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6EHQKL2wdo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6EHQKL2wdo)); *Rudy Giuliani’s Remarkable Ukraine Interview, Annotated*, Washington Post (Sept. 20, 2019) (online at [www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/09/20/rudy-giulianis-remarkable-ukraine-interview-annotated/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/09/20/rudy-giulianis-remarkable-ukraine-interview-annotated/)).

<sup>8</sup> State Department Spokesperson Statement, Twitter (Aug. 22, 2019) (online at

that Mr. Giuliani personally debriefed two senior State Department officials about his meetings with those Ukrainian officials.<sup>9</sup> Press reports also have described that career experts, including at the U.S. Embassy in Kiev, have “repeatedly expressed concerns about the contacts between Giuliani and Ukrainian officials.”<sup>10</sup>

By withholding these documents and refusing to engage with the Committees, the Trump Administration is obstructing Congress’ oversight duty under the Constitution to protect our nation’s democratic process. Due to the urgent and grave nature of these allegations, our Committees will have no choice but to move towards compulsory process this week unless the Department produces the documents we have requested.

Please inform the Committees by close of business on Thursday, September 26, 2019, whether you intend to fully comply with these requests or whether subpoenas will be necessary.

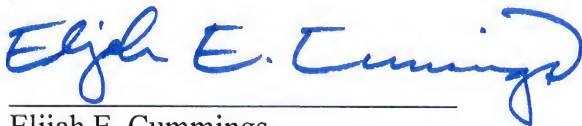
Sincerely,



Eliot L. Engel  
Chairman  
House Committee on Foreign Affairs



Adam Schiff  
Chairman  
House Permanent Select Committee  
on Intelligence



Elijah E. Cummings  
Chairman  
House Committee on Oversight and Reform

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<https://twitter.com/kenvogel/status/1164666081501470727/photo/1>).

<sup>9</sup> *Missing Piece to Ukraine Puzzle: State Department’s Overture to Rudy Giuliani*, The Hill (Sept. 20, 2019) (“That debriefing occurred Aug. 11 by phone with two senior U.S. diplomats, one with responsibility for Ukraine and the other with responsibility for the European Union, according to electronic communications records I reviewed.”) (online at <https://thehill.com/opinion/white-house/462422-missing-piece-to-the-ukraine-puzzle-state-departments-overture-to-rudy>)

<sup>10</sup> *How Trump and Giuliani Pressured Ukraine to Investigate the President’s Rivals*, Washington Post (Sept. 20, 2019) (online at [www.washingtonpost.com/politics/how-trump-and-giuliani-pressured-ukraine-to-investigate-the-presidents-rivals/2019/09/20/0955801c-dbb6-11e9-a688-303693fb4b0b\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/how-trump-and-giuliani-pressured-ukraine-to-investigate-the-presidents-rivals/2019/09/20/0955801c-dbb6-11e9-a688-303693fb4b0b_story.html))

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
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cc: The Honorable Michael McCaul, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Foreign Affairs

The Honorable Devin Nunes, Ranking Member  
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Oversight and Reform